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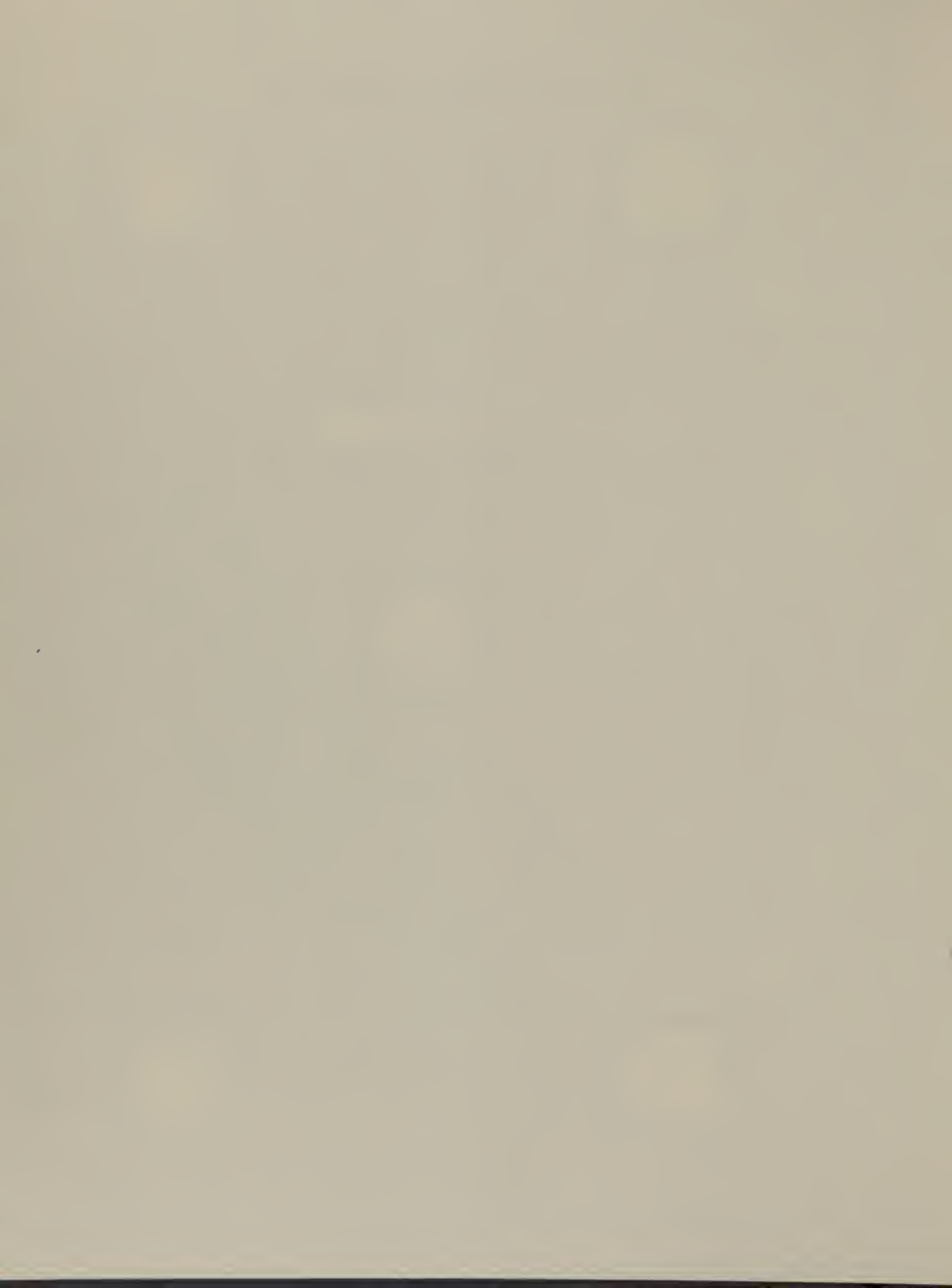
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES OF RUSSIAN MEDICINE

Preliminary Edition

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Public Health Service
Washington, D. C.
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Compiled by
Jaroslav Nemec
Reference Librarian

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As a result of the recent upsurge of interest in Russian medical literature, the volume of requests received at the National Library of Medicine for this material has increased. In answer to this need, the Library (in cooperation with the National Institutes of Health) in 1958 published a Guide to Russian Medical Literature.

This article was planned to give additional information on the same subject. It attempts to show the searcher (especially the medical librarian) the easiest way of finding bibliographic information in the multitude of reference tools available. For that purpose a list indicating the relative usefulness of Russian medical indexes and other bibliographic sources was compiled. The list is not definitive, but preliminary, and suggestions for corrections and additions are welcomed.

For a better understanding of the problems encountered, the development of Russian sources of bibliographic information concerning medicine will be discussed and then importance of the list and its features briefly mentioned.

I. Development of Russian sources of bibliographic information, concerning medicine

The first source of information on Russian medicine published within Russia was Medizinische Zeitung Russlands [Medical Journal of Russia]. Published weekly from 1844 in St. Petersburg, it contains original articles, a book review section, and a section called "Feuilleton" (medical news and miscellanea medica). There is a name and a subject index to each volume. Medizinische Zeitung Russlands was discontinued in 1860, and for the next 14 years general sources must be consulted for medical bibliographic information.

The semimonthly Knizhnyi viestnik [Book Magazine], begun in 1860, lists books of the Bekker Booksellers in St. Petersburg and also reviews the periodical press. Under various titles it survived until 1867.

Knizhnik [Bibliophile], a "bibliographical journal of books" in Moscow, edited by A. O. Cherenin, led an even shorter life. It was initiated in 1865 and discontinued in 1866.¹

¹ Bol'shaia entsiklopediia; slovar' obshchedostupnykh sviedenie po vsiem' otrasliam znaniia, 4th ed. St. Petersburg, "Prosvieshenie", 1904-1909, vol. 11, p. 105.

In 1867 Knizhnyia novosti [New Books], a "systematical index of newly published Russian books" appeared, and was published under the same title by different booksellers until 1892.²

Also in 1867, one of the best works of that period was launched by A. I. Glazunov for Glazunov Booksellers. This firm was established in 1785 in St. Petersburg and later expanded to Moscow. After the founder's death, his son and then his grandson ran the firm. Other members of the Glazunov family were also active in the business of bookselling. In 1867 A. I. Glazunov published his Systematicheskaja rospis' [Systematic index] covering the years 1855-1866 and listing books in his Moscow store. It is a classified bookseller's catalog, with an index to names, subject, and titles. Medical books are listed in Section 10. Five supplements to this catalog, published between 1869 and 1889, cover the years 1867-1887. Glazunov's publication, though incomplete, is probably the largest index of Russian medical books for the second half of the 19th century.

In 1874 Meditsinskoe obozrenie [Medical Review], a medical abstract and review journal published monthly by the Moscow Medical Society, was started. It is a very good, although incomplete, source for Russian medical literature to 1917. Volume 12, 1897, contains a cumulative author and subject index for all preceding volumes. There is no later cumulation, but subsequent volumes are indexed by author and subject either annually or semiannually. The journal died in the 1917 Revolution.

In 1884 several publishers and booksellers joined in publishing Knizhnyi viestnik [Book Magazine], a journal listing book production in Russia between 1884 and 1898.

A very ambitious project was the publication of Knigoviedenie [Knowledge of Books], a journal supported by a group of bibliographers and edited by A. D. Toropov. It contains information about books on the history of Russian literature, sciences, and the arts. Its life, however, was very short (1894-1896).³

Toward the end of the 19th century additional bibliographic journals, centered in St. Petersburg, were introduced. They were: Knizhnyi viestnik [Book Magazine], 1884-1915; Knizhnik [Bibliophile], 1898-1917 (?)

² Bol'shaia entsiklopediia, vol. II, p. 105-106.

³ Ibid., p. 105.

and, finally, Knizhnyia novosti [New Books], which was able to survive the Revolution (1899-1938).⁴

Sometime before 1907 Spisok knig vyshedshikh v Rossii [List of Books Published in Russia] appeared. We know only the title and the fact that in 1907 it was superseded by Knizhnaia letopis' [Book Annals].

Knizhnaia letopis', a bibliographic journal, was from its very beginning a weekly list of books, pamphlets, and published dissertations. The material was classified. There was an annual subject index (very broad subjects) and, sometimes, an author index also. The frequency changed to biweekly in 1921, and, in 1926, again to weekly.⁵ No annual indexes are known for the period of 1917-1923. It was published in St. Petersburg until 1920, then in Moscow. Its current features are described by G. Zarechnak.⁶ Knizhnaia letopis', despite the inadequacy of its indexes, is the most important source for the periods during which no special medical bibliographies or indexes existed.

As a result of the upheavals and devastations of the Revolution in 1917, many professional journals died, and all publishing activities in Russia reached their lowest level. The situation was especially bad in medicine, because thousands of physicians left the country, many medical schools were destroyed or abandoned, teaching staffs were dispersed, and almost all physicians were engaged in the civil war.

The political trend - to obliterate the past and its "tsarist bourgeois way of living" - was very unfavorable to any scientific activity. The few medical journals which survived (usually by changing their titles to conform with the new ideology), led a precarious existence of irregular publication and poor content. As the tsarist literature was "tabu" and foreign medical literature not available, new medical works were scarce and there was little need for medical bibliographies. The field of Soviet medicine was so narrow in its scope that it was easy to keep up with its literature. The only source of bibliographic information at that time was Knizhnaia letopis'.

⁴ Union list of serials in libraries of the United States and Canada. 2nd ed. New York, H. W. Wilson, 1943, p. 1507.

⁵ Bol'shaia sovetskaia entsiklopediia. Moskva, Gos. nauch, izd-vo, 1949 - , vol. 21, p. 474.

⁶ Zarechnak, G. Russian medicine from Russian language sources. In: National Library of Medicine. Guide to Russian medical literature. Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1958, p. 13.

After a few years of complete isolation of Soviet Russia from its pre-revolutionary past and from relations with other countries, cautious relaxation of Communist policies took place. Both the new and the old Russian intelligentsia were applying great pressure on the Communist government for freer access to information. Thus a little more freedom came after 1923 with the so-called "Cultural Revolution Movement" whose aim was to raise the cultural standard of the nation. Included in the "movement" were plans for the advancement of the sciences, including medicine.⁷

Continuing recovery from the wounds of World War I and from the civil war led to better printing facilities, including more printing paper, with the resulting publication of new periodicals. Between 1923 and 1939 about 50 new and important medical serials appeared.⁸

This renaissance of medical literature revived the need for bibliographic control. In 1931 Nauchnaia literatura SSSR. Sistematicheskii ukazatel' knig i zhurnal'nykh statei, 1928, Meditsina [Scientific literature of SSSR. Systematic index of books and periodical articles, 1928. Medicine] was published. It is a "systematic index"⁹ of Russian medical literature of 1928 and contains separate author and subject indexes.

The start was very promising, but another five years elapsed before a continuation appeared. The reason for the delay was a fight behind the scenes about a classification scheme. The ardent Communists were not satisfied with the systematic classification, because it was still dependent on the "capitalistic" way of thinking; they favored

⁷ Nauchnaia literatura SSSR. Sistematicheskii ukazatel' knig i zhurnal'nykh statei, 1928. Meditsina. Moskva, Ogiz RSFSR, 1931, p. xiii.

⁸ Bachrach, E. C. List of selected Russian serial titles. In: National Library of Medicine. Guide to Russian medical literature. Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1958, pp. 31-48.

⁹ By the term "systematic index" the Russians meant that the material was arranged according to the decimal classification of the International Bibliographic Institute, or according to some other modification of Dewey's scheme. For other meanings see: Horecky, P. L. Libraries and bibliographic centers in the Soviet Union. Bloomington, Indiana Univ., 1959, p. 2.

subject classification, based on the ideas of dialectic materialism and cited as their authority the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin. In 1933/34 Gosudarstvennaia tsentral'naia knizhnaia palata RSFSR (National Central Book Chamber) discarded the systematic classification and divided material according to subject,¹⁰ thus stamping subject classification as an official policy.

In judging libraries and librarians in Soviet Russia, it is necessary to keep in mind Lenin's statement, repeated to western readers very recently by Horecky: "The Soviet librarian... is a propagandist and agitator for the cause of Communist culture. His entire work must be permeated with the spirit of Communist ideology and unconditional loyalty to the party policies."¹¹ This explains the quick change of the classification scheme.

All the bibliographic material assembled and classified by Komissiiia po indeksam pri Ts. I. K. SSSR (Commission for Indexes in the Central Executive Committee of the USSR) had to be reclassified. This was not done, however, with the medical material of 1932 and 1933. Thus Meditsinskaia literatura SSSR. Sistemicheskii ukazatel' knig i zhurnal'nykh statei, 1933 [Medical literature of SSSR. Systematic index of books and periodical articles, 1933] appeared in 1936 as a systematic index, with the features of the previous volume.

The foreword to Meditsinskaia literatura... 1933 states that a new office, Meditsinskoe bibliograficheskoe biuro (Medical Bibliographical Bureau), authorized to collect bibliographic information, was established on Jan. 8, 1936. The office acquired Dr. A. E. Molotkov's collection of bibliographic material on Russian medicine covering the period from the end of the 16th century to the year 1929.

The intention of the Bureau was to publish Molotkov's indexes as a separate volume, and in 1937 preparations for publication were almost completed. There is, however, no trace of such a publication. Thus the searcher still must pursue dozens of indexes of differing features and value for bibliographic information of this period.

¹⁰ Od gosudarstvennoi tsentral'noi knizhnoi palaty. Knizhnaia letopis', 1935, 29(1):2

¹¹ Horecky, op. cit., p. 2

After the appearance of *Meditsinskaia literatura* ... 1933 another index covering the medical literature of 1932 was published under the same title. Like the previous work, it is a "systematic index" with author and subject indexes. In the foreword the editor says that other volumes covering the years 1930, 1931, and 1934 are already in print and that volumes covering 1929, 1935, and 1936 will be published very soon. Access to all these indexes was not possible, but it is presumed that until 1934 volumes of *Meditsinskaia literatura* are "systematic indexes," still related to the "capitalistic" classification, and that the other volumes are arranged by subject. The 1935 (1938) and 1936 (1939) volumes are arranged by subject in alphabetical order and have author and systematic indexes.

By 1935, as mentioned above, the controversy about classification was over and the Communist doctrine had won. This has been discussed in some detail by T. J. Whitby.¹² The same problem is considered by Horecky also.¹³

Students of the evolution of the Russian classification scheme should also investigate the possible role of the pre-revolutionary Russian classification in the creation of the Communist classification, especially its 1948 version. The similarity between Glazunov's *Sistematicheskaja rospis* (1867), and the present Soviet classification is striking.¹⁴

The international tension from 1939 and during World War II disrupted the publication of medical bibliographies for a long time.

¹² Whitby, T. J. Evolution and evaluation of Soviet classification. LQ, 1956, 26: 118-127. The essence of his article is: Dewey's Decimal Classification was adopted by the Soviets in 1921; the scheme was subjected to many changes and finally vanished under the influence of Marx-Lenin ideology.

¹³ Horecky, *op. cit.*, pp. 43-46.

¹⁴ For more information on the evolution of Soviet classification and on Soviet subject catalogs see: a) Eikhenholz, A. D. Sorok let sovetskoi bibliografii. Sovetskaia bibliografiia, 1957, 48: 3-30. b) Kruglikova, V. P. Osnovnye printsipy predmetnogo kataloga i ego mesto v sisteme biblioteknykh katalogov. Sovetskaia bibliografiia, 1950, 30: 3-26. c) all the introductions to cumulative indexes 1928-1936 and 1941-1946.

Bibliographic activities were resumed in 1948 by Ministerstvo zdavookhraneniia SSSR. Gosudarstvennaia tsentral'naia meditsinskaia biblioteka [Ministry of Public Health. National Central Medical Library], with publication of Sovetskaia literatura po meditsine. Ukazatel' knig i statei, 1941-1944. [Soviet medical literature. Index of books and articles, 1941-1944]. As the introduction states, it is a classified index of all medical publications which appeared during the "Great Patriotic War," and covers primarily military medicine. Arrangement is by subject in alphabetical order, and there is an author index and a systematic index. A continuation compiled by B. A. Ivanov appeared under the same title in 1954. It covers 1945 and 1946 and material from 1941-1944 which was not included in the previous volume. Its arrangement is the same as that of the previous volume. In the introduction Ivanov announces the publication of another volume of the same work, covering 1947-1948. This volume is not available in Washington, and it is unknown if it was ever published.

Thus Ivanov's work is the last volume of comprehensive Russian medical bibliographies known. Up to the present, nothing as comprehensive has appeared.

The great expansion of Soviet science after World War II was accompanied by a continuing growth in the number of medical journals and new attempts at bibliographic control.

In 1948 Sovetskoe meditsinskoe referativnoe obozrenie [Soviet Medical Abstract Review], an abstracting service of very large scope was begun. Although its indexes are good, it is selective; the searcher must, therefore, very often consult also the Knizhnaia letopis' for books, pamphlets, and published dissertations, and Letopis' zhurnal'nykh statei [Annals of Periodical Articles] for articles.¹⁵

Sovetskoe meditsinskoe referativnoe obozrenie ceased publication in 1956 and was immediately replaced by Meditsinskii

¹⁵ For more information on Soviet. med. ref. obozrenie see G. Zarechnak, op. cit., p. 11.

referativnyi zhurnal [Medical Abstract Journal], a monthly. It includes reviews, annotations, and bibliographic citations of books and articles, both domestic and foreign. It was first arranged in four sections, but in 1960 the number of sections was extended to ten. Its lack of cumulative indexes makes it difficult to use.

At present, the best reference tools for Russian medical literature from 1956 to 1960 are: Knizhnaia letopis' and Letopis' zhurnal'nykh statei, with their poor classification and inadequate indexes, or, Ezhegodnik knigi SSSR [Bibliographic annual of books of the USSR] which is now about two and a half years behind.

II. List of bibliographic sources of Russian medicine

Bibliographic coverage of Russian medicine is incomplete. There are gaps and inadequacies in the indexes before 1929, confusing classification from 1929 to 1936, another gap in coverage from 1937 to 1940, selective coverage after 1946 and great delay in the publication of indexes and lack of cumulative indexes after 1940.

Moreover, in the United States some Russian bibliographies and indexes are not available. Even the National Library of Medicine which probably has the largest collection of Russian medical literature in the Western world cannot claim that its collection is complete. The rich sources of the Library of Congress, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the National Institutes of Health, and the New York Academy of Medicine, among others, can fill some gaps, but even their combined coverage is not complete. This is not due to changes in the acquisition policies of these libraries, but to political changes inside Soviet Russia and to changes in her international relations.

A bibliographer, digging in the field of Russian medicine has, therefore, to use a variety of tools to overcome these obstacles. He can receive considerable help from bibliographical tools published outside Russia. The most important of them are described in E. Brodman's article¹⁶ and are included in the list.

¹⁶ Brodman, E. Russian medicine from western language sources. In: National Library of Medicine. Guide to Russian medical literature. Washington, Govt. Print. Off., 1958, p. 1-8.

The list has two objectives: to familiarize the user with available sources of bibliographic information in the field of Russian medicine; and describe the best bibliographic sources for various periods (starred items).

The arrangement of the list is self explanatory. The starred items should be consulted first. If they do not contain the information needed, the non-starred items (secondary sources) should be used. Since the secondary sources are mostly non-Russian, descriptions of their features was omitted. If necessary, the user of the list will find them in the general reference tools (e.g. Handbook of medical library practice, etc.)

As far as we know, this list is the first work of its kind in the field of Russian medicine, published in the U.S. A. It is not definitive, but preliminary. Through the cooperative effort of all medical librarians, working with Russian material, the list could be substantially improved to reach a better and more complete coverage of the field. This is the compiler's aim.

Period covered	Title	Features
Earliest times to 1894	*Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, U. S. Army, 1st series (1880-1895).	Books, theses, pamphlets in one alphabet by author & subject. Articles under subject. Over 130 Russian periodicals indexed.
1834-1922	Schmidt's Jahrbücher der in- und ausländischen gesammten Medicin, 1834-1922.	
1841-1865	Canstatt's Jahresbericht über die Fortschritte der gesammten Medicin in allen Ländern, 1841-1865.	
1844-1860	*Medizinische Zeitung Russlands, 1844-1860.	Weekly. Original articles, book reviews and "feuilletons" (medical news and miscell.) Name and subject index to each volume.
1855-1866	*Sistematicheskaja rospis' knigam prodaiushchimsia v knizhnom magazine A. I. Glazunova v Moskve. 1867.	Classified bookseller's catalog. Books and pamphlets. Medicine in Sec. 10. Name, subject and title index in one alphabet.
1860-1892	Royal College of Surgeons, England. Library. Catalogue of Russian medical dissertations and other works.	
1866-1916	Jahresbericht über die Leistungen und Fortschritte in der gesammten Medicin.	

Period covered	Title	Features
1867-1887	*Glazunov, I. I. 1-5 pribavlenie k sistematicheskoi rospisi knigam prodaiushchimsia v knizhnom magazini. St. Petersburg, 1869, 1874, 1882, 1884, 1889.	Continuation of Sistematicheskaja rospis. Classified bookseller's catalog. Books and pamphlets. Medicine in Sec. 10 (12). Name subject and title index in one alphabet.
1874-1916	*Meditinskoe obozrenie, 1874-1916	Review & abstract journal. Monthly. Cumulative author and subject index in 1879 for the first 12 volumes, then author & subject index for every volume. Very good but not comprehensive.
1879-1899	Index Medicus, first series (1879-1899), 21 v.	
1895-1916 & earlier	*Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon General's Office, U. S. Army. 2nd series (1896-1916).	Books, theses, pamphlets in one alphabet by author & subject. Articles under subject. Over 250 Russian periodicals indexed.
1899-1900	Index medicus novus, 2 v.	
1900-1902	Bibliographia medica (Index medicus), 3 v.	
1903-1920	Index Medicus, second series (1903-1920), 18 v.	
1907-	Chemical Abstracts	

Period covered	Title	Features
1907-	*Knizhnaia letopis'	A weekly classified list of books, pamphlets and published dissertations. 1907-1916 annual broad subject indexes, author indexes sometimes. Inconsistent indexing policies. 1917-1923 indexes for every issue, no cumulation. 1918-1925 form arrangement, 1921-1925 biweekly, then weekly. 1924 quarterly geographical index of authors, editors and translators. 1925 quarterly author index. 1926-1927 no cumulation. 1934 classified arrangement (medicine Sec. XI), list of serials indexed. No quarterly or annual cumulation. For the first time covers all SSSR book production. 1939-1940 no cumulative indexes. Classified arrangement. Incomplete (World War II.). 1947-1955 quarterly cumulative subject index. 1956-1959 annual cumulative author and subject index.
1911-1937	Bibliographie der fremdsprachigen Zeitschriftenliteratur.	
1916-1925	Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, U. S. Army, 3rd series (1918-1932), 10 v.	
1919-1933 & partly to 1954	Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, U. S. Army, 4th series (1936-1955). (A-Mn)	

Period covered	Title	Features
1921-1926	*Index Medicus, 3rd series (1921-1926), 6 vol.	Quarterly classified index of books, pamphlets and articles. Author index annually.
1925-1929	Knigi v ... godu	
1926-	Biological Abstracts	
1926-1937	*Zhurnal'naia letopis'	Biweekly classified index of articles. Annual list of serials indexed; a list of subject used. No cumulative index. Continued as Letopis' zhurnal'nykh statei.
1927-1956	Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus	
1928	*Nauchnaia literatura SSSR; sistematicheskii ukazatel' knig i zhurnal'nykh statei, 1928. Meditsina.	Classified index of books, pamphlets and articles. Author and subject indexes, 11,000 titles included. List of indexed journals.
1928-1935	*Tsentral'nyi meditsinskii zhurnal (1928-1935)	Classified, selective and annotated monthly list of books, pamphlets & articles. Author and subject indexes. From 1933 a list of reviewed books, from 1932 foreign literature included, from 1934 indexes semiannually. Vol. 1931, 8 (2):1149-1352 includes "Survey of Soviet medical literature 1927-1930". Continued by Tsentral'nyi referativnyi meditsinskii zhurnal.
1932-1933	*Meditsinskaia literatura SSSR... 1932 (1937); vol. 3: 1933 (1936).	Classified list with author and subject indexes. Covers partly 1931. Volumes 1930, 1931 & 1934 not available.

Period covered	Title	Features
1934-	Letopis' retsenzii	
1935-1936	*Medit'sinskaia literatura SSSR... 1935 (1938) vol. 5 and 1936 (1939) vol. 6.	A new arrangement: alphabetical subject list of books, pamphlets and articles. Author and subject indexes. Covers partly 1934.
1936-1941	*Tsentral'nyi referativnyi meditsinskii zhurnal (1936-1941)	Classified, selective, annotated monthly list of books, pamphlets and articles. Subject index; foreign literature included. In 1938 organized into four series. Discontinued 1941.
1937	*Letopis zhurnal'-nykh statei, 1937-	Continuation of Zhurnal'naia letopis. Classified index of articles. Quarterly cumulative author index; list of serials indexed annually. Covers over 80,000 articles per year. Difficult and therefore used only for periods without adequate coverage.
1938-1947	*Freidlin, S. Ia. Bibliografiia sovetskogo zdрави-okhraneniia za 10 let.	Classified. Author index. 2,065 items on public hygiene.
1940-	Bulletin signalétique	
1941-1944	*Ivanov, B. A. & List, E. V. Sovetskaia literatura po meditsine, 1941-1944.	Subject alphabetic index of books, pamphlets and articles. Authors and titles arranged alphabetically under subjects. Author index. 29,000 titles.

Period covered	Title	Features
1941-1945	Kochergin, I. G. Doktorskie dissertatsii po meditsine za 1941-45 gg.	
1945-1946	*Ivanov, B. A. Meditsinskaia literatura SSSR, 1945- 1946.	Subject alphabetic index of books, pamphlets and articles. Authors and titles arranged alphabetically under subjects. Author and "systematic" index. Contains also material from 1941-1944, not covered in the past.
1947-	Excerpta medica	
1948-	U. S. Library of Congress. Monthly List of Russian Acces- sions (from 1958: Monthly Index of Russian Accessions)	
1948-1955	*Sovetskoe meditsinskoe referativnoe obozrenie. Predmetnyi i avtorskii ukazatel'. Vol. 1-7 (1948-1955)	Subject and author indexes to a selective abstract review, covering books, pamphlets and articles.
1950-1959	*Current list of Medical Literature, 1950-1959.	A monthly list of medical articles. Semi-annual subject and author in- dexes. The best non-Russian source of information on Russian medicine.
1954-	Die Medizin der Sowjetunion und der Volksdemokratien in Referat.	
1954-	Referativnyi zhurnal. Biologiya.	

Period covered	Title	Features
1954-	Bibliographia medica Sovietica.	
1954-1955	Akademiia meditsinskykh nauk SSSR. Annotatsii nauchnykh rabot, 1954, 1955.	
1955-	Referativnyi zhurnal. Khimiia.	
1957-	Abstracts of Soviet Medicine.	
1960-	*Index Medicus.	Supersedes the CLML. Published monthly will cumulate every year as Cumulated Index Medicus. Subject section & author section alphabetically arranged. The best non-Russian source of information.

